

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A status notification apparatus for notifying the a status of a ~~second~~ first information processing apparatus ~~in a first information processing apparatus and a second information processing apparatus which has a reproducing unit for reproducing information, the first and second information processing apparatuses being interconnected for mutually transmitting/receiving the information to/from the second information processing apparatus and having a display unit which can display the information, the status notification apparatus~~ comprising:

- an inquiry device equipped in the first information processing apparatus and making an inquiry about whether or not the second information processing apparatus has a function of transmitting/receiving the information and a control function of enabling the first information processing apparatus to utilize the information; and
- a notification device equipped in the first information processing apparatus and starting the notification upon confirmation by the inquiry device that the second information processing apparatus has the function and the control function.

2. (previously presented): A status notification apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the notification device stops the notification upon confirmation by the inquiry device that the second information processing apparatus has no configuration to transmit/receive information after starting the notification.
3. (canceled).
4. (canceled).
5. (previously presented): A status notification apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the notification device switches the display unit in off state to a turned-on state when starting the notification.
6. (canceled).
7. (previously presented): A status notification apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the second information processing apparatus and the first information processing apparatus are connected to each other by a serial bus governed by IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers) 1394 Standard.
8. (canceled).

9. (currently amended): A status notification method for notifying ~~the a~~ status of a ~~second~~ first information processing apparatus in a ~~first~~ second information processing apparatus which has a reproducing unit for reproducing information, the first and second information processing apparatuses being interconnected for mutually transmitting/receiving the information to/from the second information processing apparatus and having a display function which can display the information, the status notification method comprising:

an inquiry process for making an inquiry about whether or not the second information processing apparatus has a function of transmitting/receiving the information and a control function of enabling the first information processing apparatus to utilize the information;

and

a notification process for starting the notification upon confirmation by the inquiry that the second information processing apparatus has the function and the control function.

10. (canceled).

11. (currently amended): A computer ~~data-signal~~ program embodied in a ~~carrier-wave~~ computer-readable medium and representing a sequence of instructions, which when executed by a computer included in a status notification apparatus for notifying ~~the a~~ status of a ~~second~~ first information processing apparatus ~~in a first information processing apparatus and a second information processing apparatus which has a reproducing unit for reproducing information, the first and second information processing apparatuses being interconnected for mutually~~

transmitting/receiving the information ~~to/from the second information processing apparatus and having a display unit which can display the information~~, the instructions cause the computer to function as:

- an inquiry device for making an inquiry about whether or not the second information processing apparatus has a function of transmitting/receiving the information and a control function of enabling the first information processing apparatus to utilize the information;
- and
- a notification device for starting the notification upon confirmation by the inquiry device that the second information processing apparatus has the function and the control function.

12-18. (canceled).

19. (new): A status notification apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the information comprises audio information.

20. (new): A status notification method according to claim 9, wherein the information comprises audio information.

21. (new): The computer program according to claim 11, wherein the information comprises audio information.